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Famous History OR FRYER BACON.

Containing the wonderful things that
he did in his Life; Also the manner
of his Death, with the Lives and Deaths
of the two Conjurers, Bangey
and Vandermast.

Very pleasant and delightful to be read.

Wijdschap doet, het leven verlangt.



London; Printed by E. Cotes, for F. Grove dwelling
upon Snorbly, 1664. Digitized by Google

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THE
Famous History
OF
FRYER BACON.

Containing the wonderful things that
he did in his Life; Also the manner
of his Death, with the Lives and Deaths
of the two Conjurers, *Bungey*
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Of the Parents and Birth of Fryer Bacon, and how he
addicted himself to Learning.


E was born by most mens opinions in
the West part of England, and was son
to a wealthy Farmer, who put him to
Schools in the Parson of the Towne
where he was borne; not with intent
that he should turns Fryer (as he did) but
to get so much understanding, that he might manage the
better that wealth he was to leake him. But young

Bacon tooke his learning so fast, that the Priest could not teach him any more, which made him desire his Father that he would speak to his Father to put him to Oxford, that he might not lose that little learning that he had gained, his Master was very willing so to doe, and one day meeting his Father, told him, that he had receiveth a great blessing of God, in that he had given him so wise and hopefull a Childe, as his sonne Roger Bacon was (soz so was he named) and wished him with-all to doe his duty, and so to bring up his Childe, that he might shew his thankfulness to God & whiche could not better be done then in making him a Scholar, soz bee found by his sudden taking of his learning, that he was a Childe likely to prove a very great Clerk; hereat old Bacon was not well pleased (for he desired so bring him up to Plough and to the Cart; as he himself was brought) yet be for reverence sake to the Priest, shewed not his anger, but kindly thanked him soz his paines, and councell, yet desirring him not to speake any more concerning that matter: for he knew best what pleased himself, and that he would not do; so brake they off their talk and parted.

So soon as the old man eame home, he called to his Son for his Books, whiche when he had, he lockt them up, and gabe the Boy a Cart-whip in the place of them, saying to him: Boy, I will have you no Priest, you shall not be better learned than I: you can tell how by the Almanack when it is best sowing Wheate, when Barley, Pease and Beans: and when the best Lidding is, when to sell Czain and Cattle I will teach thee: for I have all Fairs and Markets as perfect in my memory, as Sir John our Priest has spasse without book: Take me this whip, I will teach thee the use of it, it will be more profitable to thee than this harsh Latine; Make no replie, but follow my counsell, do else by the spasse thou shalt feel the smart hand of my anger. Young Bacon thought this but hard dealing, yet wrold he not reply, but within six or eight dares he gave his Father

of Fryer Bacon.

the ship, and went to a Cloyster some twenty miles off, where he was entertained, and so continued his learning, and in small time came to be so famous, that he was sent for to the University of Oxford, where he long time studied, and grew so excellent in the secrets of Art and Nature, that not England onely, but all Christendome admired him.

How the King sent for Fryer Bacon, and of the wonderful things he shewed the King and Queen.

The King being in Oxfordshire at a Noblemans house was very desirous to see this famous Fryer, for he had heard many tales of his wondrous things that he had done by his Art: wherefore he sent one, for him to desire him to come to the Court. Fryer Bacon kindly thanked the King by the Messenger, and said that he was at the Kings service, and would suddenly attend him: but Sir, saith he (to the Gentleman) I pray make you hast, or else I shall be two hours before you at the Court. For all your learning (answered the Gentleman) I can hardly beleefe this, for Scholars, Old men, and Travellers, may lie by authority. To strengthen your beleef (said Fryer Bacon) I could presently shew you the last warren that you lay withall, but I will not at this time. One is as true as the other (said the Gentleman) and I would laugh to see either. You shall see them both within these fourre houres, quoth the Fryer) and therfore make what haste you can. I will present that by my speed (said the Gentleman) and with that rid his way; but he rode out of his way, as it should seem, for he had but like miles to ride, and yet he was better then three houres a riding them, so that Fryer Bacon by his Art was with the King before he came.

The King kindly welcommened him, and said that he

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long time had desired to see him: for he had as yet not heard of his life. Frye Bacon answered him, that same had binde him, and giben him that report that his poore studies had never deserued, for he beleebed that Art had many sonnes more excellen: then himselfe was. The King commended him for his modesty, and told him, that nothing did become a wise man lesse then boasting: But yet will he requested him now to be no niggard of his knowledge, but to shew his Queene and him some of his skill. I were worthy of neither Art nor knowledge (quoth Fryer Bacon) would I deny your my selfe this small request: I pray seat you selves and you shall see presently what my poore skill can performe: the King, Queen, and Nobles sat them all downe. They having so done, the Fryer wabed his wand, and presently was heard such excellent musique that they were all amazed; for they all said they had never heard the like. This is said the Fryer, to delight the sence of hearing. I will delight all your other senses ere you depart hence; so waving his wand again, there was louder musique heard, and presently the dancers entred, the first like a Court-Landresse, the second like a footman, the third like a Tuisuer, the fourth like a prodigall, the fift like a foole: these did divers excellent changes; so that they gave content to all the beholders, and having done their Dance, they all vanisched away in their order as they came in. Thus feasted he two of their sensas. Then wabed he his wand againe, and whilke it was a playing therf was suddenly before them a table richly covered with all sorte of delicacies: then desired he the King and Queene to tast of some certain rare frutes that were on the table, whiche they and the Nobles were pretelye bid, and were very lightly pleased with the taste: they being satisfied, all vanisched away in the sudain: then wabed he his wand again, and suddenly there was such a smel: as if all the rich perfumes in the whole world had been ffecte prepared in the best maniere that Art could

of Fryer Bacon.

could set them out : whiles he feasted thus their smelling, he wabed his hand againe, and there came divers Partions in sundry habitts (as Russians, and Polanders, Indians, Armenians) all bringing sundry kinds of Futes, such as their Countries yeelded: all which they presented to the King and Queen: these Futes were so soft in the touch that they higly pleased all those that handled them; then after some odde fantastike Dances (after their Countrey manner) they vanished away: then asked Fryer Bacon the Kings Majestie, if that bee desired any more of his skilt? The King answered that he was fully satisfied for that time, and that he onely now thought of something that bee might bestow on him, that might partly satisfie the kindness that he had receivē. Fryer Bacon said, that he desired nothing so much as his Majesties loue, and if that bee might bee assured of that, he would think himselfe happy in it: for that (said the King) bee thou eber sure of, in token of which receive this Jewell, and withall give him a costly Jewell from his neck. The Fryer did with great reverence thank his Majestie, and said: as your Majesties vassall you shall eber finde me ready to doe you service, your time of need shall find it both beneficiall and delightfull. But amongst all the Gentlemen I see not the man that your Grace did send for mee by, sure bee hath lost his way, or else met with some spoṛt that detains him so long. I promised to be here before him, and all this noble assembly can witnessse I am as good as my word: I hear him coaming: with that entred the Gentleman all be dirc'd, (for he had rid through ditches, quagmires, plashes, and waters, that bee was in a most pitiful case) bee seeing the Fryer therē looked full angerly, and bid a por on all his Debils for they had led him out of his way, and almost drewnēd him. Bee not angry Sir, (said Fryer Bacon) here is an old friend of yours that hath more cause for the hath taied these three hours for you (with that he pulled up ther Hangings, and behind them stood a

kitchen-paide with a basting-tadle in her hand:) now am I as good as my word with you, for I promised you to helpe you to your sweet-heart, howe doe you like this? So ill, answered the Gentleman, that I will be revenged of you. Threaten not (said Fryer Bacon) least I doe you more shame, and doe you take heed howe you give Scholars the lye again: but because I know not how well you are stozed with money at this time, I will beat your Wenchess charges home; with that therre banished away: The King, Queen, and all the compny laughed to see with what shame this Gentleman indured the sight of his greasse sweet-heart; but the Gentleman went away disconcented. This done, Fryer Bacon took his leaue of the King and Queen, and received from them divers gifts (as well as thanks) for his art he shewed them.

How Fryer Bacon deceived his man, that would fast for his conscience sake.

Fryer Bacon had one onely man to attend on him, and he too was none of the wicest, for he kept him in Charing, more than for any service he had of him. This man of his, named Miles, never could endure to fast as other Religious persons did, soz alwaies he had in one corner or other, flesh whiche he would eate when his master eate bread onely, or else did fast and ablatine from all things. Fryer Bacon, seeing this, thought at one time of other to be sben with him, whiche he did on Friday in this manner: Miles on the Thursday night had prepared a great black-pudding for his Friday fast: That Pudding put he in his pocket (thinking belike to heate it so, for his master had no fire on those dayes:) on the next day, whiche was so demure as Miles, he looked as though he would not have eat any thing; when his master

of Fryer Bacon.

Master offered him some bread, hee resuled it, saying, his
limes deserved a greater penance then one dayes fast in a
whole week : his Master commended him for it, and
bid him take heed that hee did not dissemble, for if he did
it wold at last be knowne; Then wete I worse then a
Turke said Miles : so went hee forth, as if hee would
have gone to pray privately, but it was soz nothing but to
pray pribly upon his black-pudding : that pulled he out, for
it was halfe roasted with the heat of his bumme, and fell to
it lustily, but he was deceived, for having put one end in
his mouth he could neither get it out again, nor bite it
off, so that he stamped out for help, his Master beating
him, came, and finding him in that manner, tooke hold of
the other end of the pudding and led him to the Hall, and
shewed him to all the Scholars, saying; See here my good
friends and fellow students, what a devout man my ser-
vant Miles is, he loked not to break a fastday, witness
this pudding that his Conscience will not let him swal-
low : I will have him to be an example for you all, there-
fore he him to a window by the end of the pudding, wheres-
poor Miles stood like a Mare syed by the nose to a Stake,
and indured many slouts and mocks : at night his Master
releaseth him from his penance ; Miles was glad of it,
and did how never to break more fast dayes whiles that he
lived.

How Fryer Bacon saved a Gentleman that had given him-
selfe to the Devil.

In Oxfordshire there lived a Gentleman, that had
through his riotous expences wasted a faire Inheri-
tance that was left him by his Father. After which he
grew so poore, that he had not wherewithal to buy him-
selfe so much bread as wold maintain his miserable
life : the memory of his former state that he had lived

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in, and the present want that he now sustained, made him to grow desperate and regardlesse both of his soule and bodies estate : which gav^e the Debil occasion to work upon his weaknesse in this manner following.

On a time, he being all alone full of griefe and care, (griefe for his follies past, and care how to get a poore living for the remainder of his dayes) the Debill came unto him, and asked him what he wanted (he came not in a shafe terrible, but like an old penng-Father. This Gentleman was amazed at the sodaine presence, but hearing him demand of his wants, he took to him courage and said : I want all things, I want money to buy mee apparel, money to buy mee meat, money to redeem my Land, and money to pay my debts : Can αz will you helpe me in this misery ? I will, answered the Debill, on some conditions, help you to money for to supply all these wants, and that suddainly. On any conditions, said the Gentleman, help mee, and I swears to performe them : I take no Wathes (answered the Debill) I must have Wards ; if you will doe so, meet me by the Woods side to morrow morning, and there I will habe the money ready, I will, said the Gentleman (for hee poore man was glad of it on any conditions, as hee said before.) The next day he went to the Woods, where the Debill had promised to meet him : long had hee not been there, but he beheld the Debill comming, and after him two other like Herbingmen, with bagges of money : this rejoiced the poore Gentlemanes heart to think that he should once againe like like a man. The Debill comming to him said : Sonne, I will performe my promise unto you if you will seal to the condicions that I habe heres already drawne : willing said the Gentleman, I will, I pray read them. The Debill read them to this effect : that he lent him so much money as hee should habe no need of, to be imployed to these uses following : First to redeem his mortgaged Land ; next to pay his debts ; lastly to buy him such necessaries, as hee wanted ;

wanted; to be lent on this condition, That so soon as hee had paid all his debts that he shoulde be at the Lenders dispouing, and without any delay freely to yeeld himselfe to him upon the first demand of the aforesaid Lender. To this the Gentleman sealed, and had the money carryed to his chamber, with which money he in short time redeemed his land, and bought such things as he needed, and likewise paid all his debts, so that there was not any man could ask him one penny.

Thus liued this Gentleman once again in great credit, and grew so great a husband that he encreased, his estate, and was richer then euer his Father before him was: but long did not this joy of his continuall for one day hee being in his Studie the Debill appeared unto him and did tell him, that now his Lord was redeemed, and his debts paid, and therefore his time was come that he must yeeld himselfe to his mercie, as hee was bound by Bond. This troubled the Gentleman to heare, but more to thinke how hee must become a slave to a stranger that hee did not know, (for hee knew not as yet that hee was the Debill) but being urged to answer for himselfe, by the Debill, hee said he had not as yet paid all his debts and therefore as yet hee was not lyable to the Bonds strait Conditions. At this the Debill seemed angry, and with a fearfull noise transformed himselfe to an ugly shape, saying, Alas poor wretch, these are poore excuses that thou framest. I know them all to be false, and so will probe them to thy face to morrow morning, till then I leaue thee to despaire. So with a great noyse hee went his way, leaving the Gentleman halfe dead with feare.

when hee was gone, the Gentleman rebibting, thought himselfe in what a miserable state hee was now in, then wished hee that hee had lifed and dyed poorlie, then cursed hee all his ambitious thoughts that led him first to desire again that wealth whiche hee had so vainly by his eyot lost, then would he curse his prodigall expences,

that

that were the originall of all his misery : thus was he tormented a long time in his mind, at last he fully resolued to end his wretched life by some violent death, and to that end he went forth, thinking to kill himselfe, which he had done, had it not been for the Fryer : for as he was falling upon his sword, Fryer Bacon came by and called to him to hold, which he did. Fryer Bacon demanded of him the cause why hee was so desperate that he would run headlong to hell ? O sir, said hee, the cause is great, and the relation is so terrible to mee, that I would intreat you not to trouble mee any more, but to leabe mee to my owne will ; this answer filled the Fryer with amazement and pity both at once, which made him to urge him in this maner. Sir, should I leabe you to this wilfull damnation I were unift euer heresker to weare or touch any robe that belongeth to the holy Order, whereof I am a Mzo-ther : you know (doubt not) that there is giben power to the Church to absolve penitent sinner let not your tristnesse take away from you that benefit which you may receive by it ; freely confess your selfe (I pray you) unto mee, and doubt not but I shall give your troubled conscience ease ; Father (said this gentleman) I know all that you have spoken is truth, and I have many times receyed comfort from the Mother Church, (I dare not say Our, for I fear me she will never receive me for a Childe) I have no part in her benediction ; yet since you request so earnestly the cause, I will tell you, heare it and tremble. Know then that I have giben my selfe to the Debill for a little wealth, and hee to morrow in this Wood must have me ; now habe you my grief, but I know not how to get comfort.

This is strange (quoth Fryer Bacon) yet he of good comfort, penitentiall teates may doe much, whiche see you doe not spare ; soon I will visit you at your house and give you that comfort (I hope) that will beget you againe to goodnessse : the Gentleman with these words was somewhat comforted, and returned home. At night Fryer Bacon

Bacon came to him, and found him full of teares for his bawnyous offences, for these teares bee gabe him hope of pardon, demanding further what conditions he had made with the Debill: the Gentleman told him, how that he had promised himselfe to him as soon as he had paid all his debts; which now he had done, for he owed not one peticyn to any man living. Well, said Fryer Bacon, continue thy sorow for thy sinnes, and to morrow meet hym without feare, and be thou content to stand to the next mans judgement that shall come that way, whether thou dost belong to the Debill or no: feare not, but doe so, and be thou assured that I will be he that shall come by, and will give such judgement on thy side, that thou shalt be free from him; with that Fryer Bacon went home, and the Gentleman went to his prayers.

In the mooring the Gentleman (after that he had blessed himselfe) went to the wood where he found the Debill ready for him; so soon as he came neer, the Debill said, Now Deceiter are you come, now shalst thou see that I can and will prove that thou hast paid all thy debts, and therefore thy soul belongeth to mee. Thou art a Deceiter (said the Gentleman) and gabost me money to cheal me of my soul, for else why wilt thou be thy own judge: let me have some other to judge between us: Content, (said the Debill, take whom thou wilt: then I will have said the Gentleman) the next man that commeth this way; vereto the Debill agreed. No sooner were these words ended, but Fryer Bacon came by, to whom the Gentleman spake, and requested, that he wold be judge to a weighty matter between them two; the Fryer said he was content, so both parties were agreed; the Debill said they were, and told Fryer Bacon how the case stood betwix them in this manner.

I know Fryer, but I seeing this Prodigall like to starbe for want of food, lent him money, not onely to buy him victuals, but also to redeem his lands and pay his debts, conditionally that so soon as his debts were paid, that

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he shold give himselfe freely to mee ; to this here is his Bond (shewing him the Bond) now my time is expired, for all his debts are paid, which he cannot deny. This case is plain, if it be so that his debts are paid : his silence confirmes it, said the De bill, therefore give him a just sentence. I will (said Fryer Bacon.) But first tell me (speaking to the Gentleman,) didst thou never yet give the Debill any of his money back, nor require him any wayes : never had he any thing of mee as yet (answered the Gentleman) then never let him have any thing of thee and thou art free : Deceicer of mankind, said hee (speaking to the Debill) it was thy bargaine, never to meddle with him so long as hee was indebted to any ; now how canst thou demand of him any thing when hee is indebted for all that he bath to thee, when he payeth thee thy money then take him as thy due ; till then thou hast nothing to doe with him : and so I charge thee to bee gone. At this the Debill banished with great horro : but Fryer Bacon comforted the Gentleman, and sent him home with a quiet conscience, bidding him never to pay the Debills money back as he tendred his own safety : which he promised for to obserue.

How Fryer Bacon made a Brasen head to speak, by the
which he would have walled England about with Brasse.

Fryer Bacon reading one day of the many conquests of England, bethought himselfe how he might keep it hereafter from the like conquests, and so make himselfe famous hereafter to all posterities. This (after great studie) hee found could be no way so well done as one, which was to make a head of Brass, and if he could make this head to speake (and heare when it speakes) then might hee bee able to wall England about with Brass. To this purpose hee got one Fryer Bungey to assist him, who was a great Scholar and a Magician,

(but

of Fryer Bacon.

(but not to compare to Fryer Bacon;) these two with great studie and paines so framed a head of Brasse that in the inward parts thereof there was all things like as in a naturall mans head: this being done, they were as faire from perfecion of the world as they were before, for they knew not how to give these parts that they had made, motion, whiche which it was impossible that it should speake; many booke they read, but yet could not finde any hope of what they sought, that at the last they concluded to raise a spirit, and to know of him that whiche they could not attaine to by their own studie. To doe this they prepared all things ready, and went one evening to a Wood thereto, and after many ceremonies used, they spake the words of Confirmation, whiche the Debell straight obeyed and appeared unto them, asking what they would: Who so, said Fryer Bacon, that we have made an artificall head of Brasse, which wee would have to speake, to the furtherance of whiche we have raised thee, and being raised, we will here keep thee, unlesse thou tell us the way and maner how to make this head to speake. The Debell told him, that he had not that power of himselfe. Beginner of lies (said Fryer Bacon) I know that: thou dost dissemble, and therefore tell it us quickly, or else we will here bind thee, to remain during our pleasure. At these threatenings the Debel consented to doe it, and told them, that with a continual fume of the fire hottest similes it should have motion, and in one moneths space speake, the time of the moneth or day he knew not, also he told them, that if they heard it not before it had done speaking, all their laboures should be lost: they being satisfied, licenseib the spirit so to depart.

Then went these two learned Fryers home again, and prepared the Similes ready, and made the fume, and with continuall watching attended whiche the Brass-en head would speake: Thus watched they for three weeks without any rest, so that they were so weary

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and sleepie, that they could not any longer retaine from rest; Then called Fryer Bacon his man Miles, and told him that it was not unknowne to him what paines Fryer Bungey and himselfe had taken for three weekes space, only to make and to hear the brasen-head speake, which if they did not, then had they lost all their labour, and all England had a great losse thereby: therefore he intreated Miles that he would watch whilist that they sleepe, and call hem if the head speake. Fear not good Master (said Miles) I will not sleep, but hearken and attend upon the head, and if it chance to speake, I will call you, therefore I pray take you both your rests, and let me alone for watching this head.: After Fryer Bacon had given him a greate charge: The second time Fryer Bungey and he went to sleep, and left Miles alone to watch the brasen-head; Miles, to keep him from sleeping, got a Taber and Pipe, and being merry disposed, sung this song to a Notherne tune of:

Canst thou not from New-Castle.

To couple is a custome,
all things thereto agree:
Why should not I then love
since love to all is free.

But Ile have one thats pretty,
her cheeke of Scarlet dye,
For to bread my delight,
when that I ligge her by.

Though vertue be a Dowrie,
yet I chuse money store:
If my Love prove untrue,
wch that I can get more.

The fair is often unconstant,
the black is often proud,

of Fryer Bacon;

He chuse a lovely brown,
come Fidler scrape the crowd.

Come Fidler scrape the crown
for Peggy the brown is she,
Must be my Bride, God guide,
that Peggy and Lagree,

with his alone musiche, and such songs as these speat
he time, and kept himselfe from sleeping, at last, after some noise the head speake these two wordz, Time is, Miles hearing it to speak no more, thought his Master
would be angry if he waked him for that, and therefore
he let them both sleep, and began to mock the head in this
manner. Thou Brasen-faced head, hath my Master took
all this paines about thee, and now dost thou requite him
with two wordz, Time is; had he watched with a Lawyer
so long as he hath watched with thee, he would have gi-
ven him moe and better wordz then thou hast yet; if thou
canst speak no wiser, they shall sleep till doomes day see
me: Time is, I know Time is, and that you shall hear
goodman Brasen-face.

To the tune of, Dainty come thou to me.

Time is for some to plant,
Time is for some to sow;
Time is for some to graft.
The horne as some do know.

Time is for some to eat,
Time is for some to sleep.
Time is for some to laugh,
Time is for some to weep.

Time is for some to sing,
Time is for some to pray.

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Time is for some to creep,
That have drunk all the day.

Time is to cart a Bawd,
Time is to whip a Whore,
Time is to hang a Theef,
And Time is for much more.

Do you tell us Copper-nose, when Time is, I hope we
scolars kno to our Times, when to drinh drinh, when to
kite our Hollis, when to goe on her scroze, and when to pag-
it, that time comes seldome. After half an hour had passed:
the head dia speake again two words, which were these:
Time was. Miles respected these words as little as he did
the former, and would not look them, but still scoffed at the
lyston head, that it had learned no better words, and had
such a Luso as his Master: and in scroze of it sung this
song.

To the tune of a rich Merchant-man,

Time was when thou a Kettle
wert fil'd with better matter,
But Fryer Bacon did thee spoyle,
when he thy sides did batter.

Time was when conscience dwelled
with men of occupation:
Time was when Lawyers did not thrive
so well by mens vexation.

Time was when Kings and Beggers
of one poor stiffe had being:
Time was when Office kept no knaves,
that time it was worth seeing.

Time was a bowle of water
did give the face reflecion:

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Time

Time was when women knew no paint
which now they call complexion.

Time was : I know that Brasen-face, without your telling, I know that Time was, and I know what things there was when Time was, and if you speak no wiser, no sparter shall be waked of me. Thus Miles talked and sung till another halfe houre was gone, then this Brasen-head spake again these wordes, Time is past: and therewith fell down, and presently followed a terrible noyse, with strange flashes of fire, so that Miles was half dead with fear : At this noyse the two Fryers awaked, and wondered to see the whole room so full of smoak, but that being vanished they might perceive the Brasen-head broke, and lying on the ground: at this sight they grieved, and called Miles to know how this came. Miles, half dead with fear, said, that it fell down of it selfe, and that with the noyse and fire that followed he was almost frighed out of his wits : Fryer Bacon asked him if he did not hear it speake? (yes quoth Miles) it spake, but to no purpose, I le habe a Parrot speake better in that time that you habe been leaching this Brasen-head. But on the Willain (said Fryer Bacon) thou hast undone us both, hadst thou but called us when it did speake, all England had been walled about with Braske, to its glory and our eternall fames: what were the words it spake? very fewe (said Miles) and those were none of the wised that I habe heard neither: first te said Time is. Hadst thou called us then (said Fryer Bacon) we had been made for eber: then (said Miles) halfe an hour after it spake again, and said Time was. And wouldst thou not call us then (said Bungey)? Alas (said Miles) I thought it would habe told me some long Tale, and then I purposed to habe called you: Then halfe an hour after he cryed Time is past, and made such a noise, that he bath waked you himselfe me thinkes. At this Fryer Bacon was in such a rage, that he would

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Habbe beaten his man, but he was restrained by Bungey: but
Never thelesse for his punishment he with his Art struck him
Dumb for one whole Moneths space. Thus that great work
of these learned Fryers was overthroned (to their great
griefes) by this simple fellow.

How Fryer Bacon by his Art took a Towne, when the
King had lyen before it three Moneths, without doing
to it any hurt.

Those times when Fryer Bacon did all his strange
Trickes, the King of England had a great part of
France, which they held a long time, till civill warres
at home in this Land made them to lose it: It did warce
that the King of England (for some cause best knowne
to himselfe) went into France with a greate Armie,
where after many victories he did besiege a strong
Towne, and lay before it full three moneths, without
doing to the Towne any great dammage, but rather re-
ceived the hurt himselfe. This did so bex the King, that
he fught to take it in any away either by policy or
Strength: To this intent he made Proclamation, that
whosoever could deliver this Towne into his hand, he
should habbe for his paines ten thousand Crownes truely
paid. This was proclaimed, but thers was none found
that would undertake it: at length the newes did come
into England of this great reward that was promised.
Fryer Bacon hearing of it went into France, and be-
ing admitted to the Kings presence, he thus spake unto
him: your Majestie I am sure hath not quite forgot
your poore subiect Bacon, the lobe that you shewed to
mee being last in your presence, hath drawne me for to
leve my Countrey and my Studies, to doe your Ma-
jesties service: I beseech your Grace, to command me
so farre as my poore Art of life may doe you pleasure:
The King thanked him for his lobe, but told him, that

of Fryer Bacon.

He had now more need of Armes than Art, and wanted
brave Souldiers more than learned Schollers. Fryer
Bacon answered, Your Grace saith well: But let me
(under correction) tell you that Art oftentimes doth
those things that are impossible to Armes, which I will
make good in some few examples. I will speake one-
ly of things performed by Art and Nature, wherein
shall be nothing Magicall: and first by the figuration of
Art, there may be made instruments of Navigation
without men to row in them, as great shippes to passe
the Sea, onely with one man to steere them, and they
shall saile farre more swifly than if they were full of
men: also Chariots that shall move with an unspeak-
able force, without any living Creature to stirr them.
Likewise an instrument may be made to fye braille, if
one sit in the middest of the Instrument and doe turne an
Engine, by whiche the wings being Artificially composed,
may beat aire after the manner of a flying bird. By an
Instrument of three fingers high, and three fingers broad,
a man may rid himselfe and others from all Imprison-
ment: yea such an Instrument may easily be made,
whereby a man may violently draw unto him a thousand
men, will they, will they, or any other thing. By art also
an Instrument may be made, whereby men may
walke in the bottome of the Sea or Rivers without bodily
danger: this Alexander the Great used (as the Etchneck
Philosopher reporteth) to the end he might behold the se-
cret of the Seas. But by small figurations are farre
more strange: for by that may be framed Perspects and
Looking-glasses, that one thing shall appear to be many;
as one man shall appear to be a whole Army, and one
Sonne or Moone shall seem divers. Also perspects may
be so framed that things a farre off shall seem most nigh
unto us; With one of these did Julius Cæsar from the
Sea coasts in France, marke and obserue the situation of
the Castles in England. Bodies, may also be so framed
that the greatest things shall appear to be the least, the

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highest lowest, the most secret to the most manifest, and in such like sort the contrary. Thus did Socrates perceive, that the Dragon which did destroy the City and Countrey adjoyning with his noysome breath, and contagious influence, did lurke in the dens between the Mountaines: and thus may all things that are done in Cities or Armies be seen by the enemies.

Again, in such wise many bodies be found, that benemous and infectious influente may be brought whither we will: In this did Arikotle instruct Alexander, throught whiche instruction the poyson of a Bassiske, being cast upon the wall of a City, the poyson was conveyed into the City, to the destruction thereof. Also perspects may be made to deceibe the sight, as to make a man beleue that he seeþ great stoeþ of riches, when that there is not any. But it appertaines to a higher power of Figuration, that beames shold bee brought and assembled by divers flexions and reflexions in any distance that wee will, to burn any thing that is opposite unto it, as it is wittnessed by those Perspects or Glasses that burn before and behind: but the greatest and chiefest of all Figurations and things figured, is to describe the Heabenly bodies, according to their length and breadth in a corporall Figure, wherein they may corporally move with a daily motion. These things are worth a Kingdome to a wise man: These may suffice, my Royall Lords to shew what Art can do: and these with many things more as strange, I am able by Art to performe. Then take no thought for winning this Town, soz by my Art you shall (ere many dayes bee past) have your desire.

The King all this while heard him with admiration: but hearing him now, that he would undertake to winne the towne, he burst out into these speeches: Most learned Bacon, do but what thou hast said, and I will give thee what thou most desirrest, either wealth or honour, choose which thou wilt, and I will be as ready to perform

of Fryer Bacon.

performe, as I have been to promise.

Your Majesties like to all that I seeke (from the paper)
let me have that and I have honour enough; for wealth, I
have content, the wize would seek no more: But to the
purpose. Let your Hyoners raise up a Mount so high (or
rather higher) then the wall, and then shall you see some
probability of that which I have promised.

This mount in two dayes was raised: then Fryer Bacon
went with the King to the top of it, and did with a perspecke
shew to him the Town, as plainly as if he had been in it:
At this the King did wonder, but Fryer Bacon told him,
that he shold wonder more ere next day noon; against which
time he desired him to have his whole Army in readinesse,
for to scale the wall upon a signall giben by him from the
mount. This the King promised to doe, and returned to his
Tent full of joy, that he shold gain this strong Town. In
the morning Fryer Bacon went up to the mount and set
his Glasses, and other Instruments up: In the mean time
the King ordered his Armie, and stood in a readinesse so
to give the assault: wherupon the signall was giben which
was the making of a Flagge, ere nine of the clock Fryer
Bacon had burnt the stalle house in the Town, with other
houses, onely by the spathematicall Glasses, which made
the whole town in an uprage, for none did know how it
came: woddes that they were quenching the same, Fryer
Bacon did make his Flagge; upon which signall given, the
King set upon the Town, and took it with little or no resis-
tance. Thus having the Art of this learned man the King
got this strong Town, which he could not do with all his
men without Fryer Bacon's help.

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How Fryer Bacon, overcame the Germane Conjuror Vandermast, and made a Spirit of his own carry him into Germany.

The King of England after he had taken in the Town, shewing great mercy to the Inhabitants giving some of them their lives freely and others he set at liberty for their Gold : the Town he kept as his own, and swore the chief Citzzens to be his true Subjects. Presently after, the King of France, sent an Ambassador to the King of England, for to intreat a peace between them. This Ambassador being come to the King, he feasted him (as it is the manner of Princes to do) as with the best spozis as he had then, welcomed him. The Ambassador seeing the King of England so free in his Lowe, desired likewise to give him some taste of his goodliking, and to that intent sent for one of his followers (being a Germaine, and named Vandermaſt) a famous Conjuror, who being come & he told the King that since his Grace had been so voluntiful in his Lowe to him, he would shew him (by a servant of his) such wonderfull things as his Grace had never seen the like before. The King demanded of him of what nature those things were that he would do ; the Ambassador answered that they were things done by the Art of Magiche, the King hearing of this, sent straight for Fryer Bacon, who presently came, and brought Fryer Burgey with him.

When the Banquet was done, Vandermast did aske the King, if he desired to see the spirit of any man deceased : and if he did, he would raise him in such manner and fashion as he was in when that he lived, The King told him, that above all men he desired to see Pompey the Great, who would abide no equal. Vandermast by his Art raised him, armed in such manner as he

of Fryer Bacon.

was when he was slaine at the battle of Pharsalia : At this they were all high & contented. Fryer Bacon presently raised the ghost of Julius Caesar, who would abide no Superior, and had slain this Pompey at the battle of Pharsalia : At the sight of him they were all amazed, but the King, who sent for Bacon ; and Vandermast said there was some man of Art w^t that presence, whom he desired to see. Fryer Bacon then shewd himselfe, laying ; It was I Vandermast that raised Caesar, partly to g^te content to the royall presence, but chiefly for to conquer thy Pompey, as he did once before at that great Battle of Pharsalia, which he now again shall doe. Then presently began a fight between Caesar and Pompey, which continued a good space, to the content of all, except Vandermast. At last Pompey was overcome and slain by Caesar : then banished they both away.

Say Lord Ambassadour (said the King) me thinks that my Englishman bath put down your Germaine : hath he no better cunning than this? Yes answered Vandermast, Your Grace shall see me put down your Englishman, ere that you goe from hence : and therefore Fryer prepare thy self with the best of Art to withstand me. This, said Fryer Bacon, it is a little thing will serue to resiste thee in this kind. I have here one Hat is my inferiour (shewing him Fryer Bungey) kee thy Art with him : and if thou do put him to the worst then will I deal with thee and not till then.

Fryer Bungey then began to shew his Art : and after some turning and looking on his Bookie, he brought up among them the Hesperian Tree, which did bear golden Apples : These Apples were kept by a wading Dragon that lay under the Tree : He having done this, his Vandermast finds out one that durst gather the fruit. Then Vandermast did raise up the ghost of Hercules in his habit that he wore when that he was living, and with his Club on his shoulder ; Here is one, said Vandermast, that

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Mast gather fruite from this Tree : this is Hercules, that
in his life time gathered of this fruit and made the Dra-
gon couch : and now again shall he gather in spite of all
Opposition. As Hercules was going to pluck the fruite
Fryer Bacon held up his wand, at which Hercules gazed
and seemed fearefull. Vande mast bid him for to gather
of the fruit, or else he woulde torment him. Hercules was
more fearefull, and said, I cannot, how dare not : for great
Bacon stands, whose charmes are far more powerefull then
thine, I must obey him, Vandermast. Hereat Vandermast
curst Hercules, and threatened him : But Fryer Bacon
laughed and bid him not to chace himself ere that his jour-
ney was ended : soz seeing (saith he) that Hercules will
doe nothing at your command, I will have him to do you
some service at mine, with that he bid Hercules carry him
home into Germany. The Debill obeyed him and took
Vandermast on his back and went away with him in all
their sightes. Hold Fryer cryed the Ambassador, I will
not lose Vandermast soz half my land, Content your self
my Lord, answered Fryer Bacon, I have bussent him home
to see his wife, and ere long he may returne. The King of
England thanked Fryer Bacon, and forced some gifts on
him for his service that he had done for him : For Fryer
Bacon did so little respect money, that he never would take
any thing of the King.

How Fryer Bacon through his wisdome saved the endan-
gered lises of three Brethren.

The Peace being concluded between the King of
England and the King of France : the King of Eng-
land came again into his Countrey of England, where
he was received very joyfully of all his subiects : But in
his absence had happened a discord between three Bre-
thren, the like hath not been often heard. Thus it was :

OF SIR FRYER BACON.

A rich Gentleman of England dyed, and left behinde him three Sons. Who for some reason (which was best knowne to himselfe) he appointed none of them by name to be his heir, but spake to them after this manner: You are all my sons, and I lobe you all as a Father shoulde doe, all alike, not one better then the other: and because I would always doe right so neer as I can, I leate all my Lands and goods to him that lobes me best. These were the last words that he spake, concerning any worldly affaires.

After he was dead and buried, there arose a great controverie betwixt them who shoudl inherit their Fathers goods and Lands, ebery one pleading for himself, how that he lobed his Father best. All the cunning Lawyers of the Kingdom, could say nothing to the purpose, concerning this case, so that they were inforced to beg of the King a grant for a combate, for they would not have the Lands and goods amogst sheen, but ebery one desired all or else nothing. The King seeing no other way to end this controverie, granted a combate, the two elder being to fight first, and the Conquerour to fight with the youngest, and the surbider of them twa to habe the Land.

The day being come that was set for those Combatants, they all came in Armed for the fight, Siryer Bacon being there present, and soeing such threase young men like to perissh, and that by their owne flesh and blood, grieved very much, and went to the King, desiring his Majestie that he would stay the fight, and he would find a meanes without any blood-shed to end the matter: the King was very glad hereof, and caused the Combatants to be brought before him, to whom he said: Gentleman, to labe the bloud of you all, I have found a way, and yet the controverie shall be ended, that is now amongst you. Are you contented to stand to his Judgement that I shall appoint? They all answered,

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hat they were. Then they were bid to returne three dayes after. In that time Fryer Bacon had caused the body of their deceased Father to be taken out of the ground, and brought to the Court: the body he did cause to be bound to a Stake, naked from the middle upwards, and likewise prepared three Bowes and Shafts for the three brethren: all these kept he secretly.

The third day being come, came these three brethren, to whom Fryer Bacon in the presence of the King, gave the three Bowes and Shafts, saying, Be not offended at what I have done, there is no other way but this to judge your cause. See here is the body of your dead Father, shoot at him, for he that commeth nearest to his heart, shall have all the Lands and goods.

The two elder prepared themselves, and shot at him, and stukke their Arrowes in his brest. Then bid they the youngest to shoot: but he refused it, saying, I will rather lose all than wound that body that I so loved living: Had you ever had but halfe that love (in you) to him that I have, you would rather have had your owne bodies mangled, than to suffer his lifelesse corpes thus to be used: nay, you do not only suffer it, but you are the Actors of this act of shame: and speaking this, he wept.

Fryer Bacon seeing this, did give the Judgement on his side, for he loved his Father best, and therefore had all his Lands and goods: The other two Brothers went away with shame for what they had done. This deed of Fryer Bacon was highly commended of all men: for he did not only give true Judgement, but also saved much blood that would have been shed, had they been suffered to have fought.

of Fryer Bacon,

How Fryer Bacon sav'd the Theeves that robbed him, and
of the sport that his man Miles had with them.

I t was reported about the Countrey, how that the King had giden Fryer Bacon great store of Tasure. The report of this wealth made three Theeves plot to rob Fryer Bacon's house, which they put in practice one evening in this fashion. They knockt at the doore, and were let in by Miles: So sooner were they in, but they took hold of him, and led him into the house, and finding Fryer Bacon there, they told him that they came for some money, which they must and would have ere they departed from hence. He told them, that he was but ill stord with money at that time, and therefore desired them to forbear him till some other time: they answered him again, that they knew that he had enough, and therefore it was but folly to delay them, but straight let them have it by fair meanes, or else they would use that extremity to him that he would be loath to suffer. He seeing them so resolute, told them that they should have all that he had, and gave them one hundred pounds a man. Wherewith they seemed content, and would have gone their waies. Nay said Fryer Bacon, I pray Gentlemen at my request tarry a little, and heare some of mans musike: you are hired reasonable well already, I hope in curtille you will not deny me so small a request: that will we not (said they all.)

Miles thought now to have some sport with them, which he had, and therefore played lustily upon his Taber and Pipe; so soon as they heard him play (against their wills) they fell a dancing and that after such a laborious manner, that they quickly wearied themselves (for they had all that while the bags of money in their hands:) Yet had

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had Fryer Bacon not revenge enough of them, but bid his man Miles lead them some larger measure as he thought fitting, which Miles did. Miles straight led them out of the house into the fields, they followed him dancing after a wilde Antick manner: Then he led them over a broad Dyke full of water, and they followed him still, but not so good a way as he went (for he went over the Bridge, but they by reason of their dancing could not keep the Bridge, but fell off, and dancing through the water:) then led he them through a way where a Horse might very well have been up to the belly: they followed him, and were so dury, as though they had wallowed in the myre like Swine: sometime he gabs them rest only to laugh at them. Then were they so sleepy, when he did not play, that they fell to the ground. When on the sudden would he play again, and make them start up and follow him. Thus he kept them the better part of the night. At last he in pity left playing, and let them rest. They being a sleep on the bare ground, he took their money from them, and gave them this song for farewell; To the tune of,

Oh do me no harme good man.

You roaring Boyes, and sturdy Thieves,
you Pimpes, and Apple-squires:
Lament the case of these poor knaves:
and warme them by your fires.

They snorting lie like hogs in sile,
but hardly are so warm:
If all that cheat such hap should meat,
to true men 'twere no harm.

They money had, which made them glad,
their joy did not indure:
Were all Thieves serv'd as these have been,
I think there would be fewer.

of Fryer Bacon.

When that they awake, their hearts will ake,
to think upon their losse :
And thought the Gallowes they escape,
they goe by weeping croffe.

Your Truls expect your coming home
with full and heavy purse,
When that they see 'tis nothing so,
oh how they'l raille and curse !

For he that loves to keep a whore,
must have a giving hand,
Which makes a many knaves be choakt,
for bidding true men stand.

They were scarce any thing the wiser for this Song,
for they slept all the while. So Miles left them at their rest,
but they had small cause to sleep so soundly as they did, for
they were more wet than ere were Scold with ducking.
Miles gave his Master his money again, and told the story
of their merry pilgrimage : he laughed at it, and wished all
men had the like power to serve all such knaves in the like
kinde. The three was wakyng in the morning and missing
their money, and seeing themselves in that plight, thought
that they had been served by some divine power, for robbing
a Church-man, and therefore they swore one to the o-
ther, never to meddle with any Church-man again.

How Vandermost, for the disgrace that he had received by
Fryer Bacon, sent a souldier to kill him; and how Fryer
Bacon escaped killing, and turned the Souldier from an
Atheist to be a good Christian.

Fryer Bacon sitting one day in his Study, looked o-
ver all the dangers that were to happen to him that

of Fryer Bacon.

Someth, there found bee, that in the second week of the moneth betwren Sun rising and setting, there was a great danger to fall on hym, whiche would without great care of prevention, take away his life. This danger whiche he did so foy see, was caused by the German Conjuror Vandermaist, for he wolded a revenge for the disgrace that he had received. To excuse the same, he hired a Walloon Souldier, and gibe him an hundred crownes to doe the same, fysly before hand, and fysly when he had killed him.

Fryer Bacon to save himself from this danger that was like to happen to him, wold always when that he read, hold a ball of Wrasse in his hand, and under that ball wold he set a Walon of Wrasse, that if he did chance to sleep in his reading the fall of the Wall out of his hand into the Walon, might wake him. Being one day in his study in this manner and sleep, the Walloon Souldier was get in to him, and had drawne his sword to kill him: but as he was ready to strike down fell the Wall out of Fryer Bacons hand, and waked him.

He seeing the Souldier stand there with a sword drawn, asked him what he was? and wherefore he came there in that manner? The Souldier, boldly answered him thus, I am a Walloon, and a Souldier, and more than this, a villain: I am come hither, because I was sent; I was sent, because I was hired; I was hired, because I durst do it; the thing I shold do, is not done, the thing to be done, is to kill thee: thus habe you heard what I am, and why I came.

Fryer Bacon wondred at this mans resolution: then asked he him who set him on worke to be a Murderer. He boldly told him Vandermaist the German Conjuror. Fryer Bacon then asked him, what Religion he was of? He answered, Of that whiche many do profess, the chief principles of which was these. To go to an Ale-house, and to a Church with one devotion: To abstain from a bill for want of Action, and to doe good against their wills: It is a good profession for a Debill (said Fryer Bacon.) Doest thou belieue Hell? I believe no such thing, answered the Sou-

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dier. Then will I shew the contrary, said the Fryer: and presently raised the Ghost of Julian the Apostate who came by with his body burning, and so full of wounds, that it a'most did affright the Souldier out of his wits. Then Bacon did command this Spirit to speake, and to shew what he was, and wherefore he was thus tormented? When spake he to them in this manner; I sometimes was a Roman Emperour. Some count greatnesse an happinesse: I had an happinesse beyound my Empire, had I kept that, I had been an happy man: would I had lost my Empire when I lost that. I was a Christian, that was my happiness, but my selfe loue and pride, made me to fall from it: for which I now am punished with never ceasing tormentes, which I must still endure: the like whiche I enjoy is never prepared for unbelieveing brentes like my selfe; so banished he away.

All this while the Souldier stood quaquing, and sweat as he had felt the tormentes himselfe, and falling down on his knees desired Fryer Bacon to instruct him in a better course of life, than he had yet gone in. Fryer Bacon told him, that he should not want his help in any thing, whiche he performed, instructing him better: Th' n gave he him money and sent him to the wars of the holy land, where he was slain.

How Fryer Bacon deceived an old Usurer.

Not farre from Fryer Bacon, dwelt an old man that had great store of Money which he let out to use, and would never doe any good with it to the poore, thought Fryer Bacon had often put him in minde of it, and wished him to doe some good whilste he lived. Fryer Bacon seeing this, by his Art made an Iron pot, whith seemed full of gold; this being done he went to this rich

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Uſurer and told him that he had ſome gold which he had gathered in his time that he had liued, but it being much in quantity, he feared that if it were known, it would be taken from him, because it was unſitting a man of his Coate to have ſo much: Now he deſired him tha: he would let him have ſome hundred pounds, whch was not the ſixt part of his gold, and he would keep it for him. The Uſurer was glad to heare of it ſo, and told him that he could have it, and that he ſhould keep the gold as he as he himſelf would: Fryer Bacon was glad to hear of this and preſently ſeide to the pot: at the ſight of which he Uſurer laugh and thought to himſelf, how all that gold was his owne, ſo: he had a determination to guill the Fryer, but he gullid himſelf. See here to the gold (ſaid Fryer Bacon) now let me have of you one hundred pounds and keep you this gold till I pay it back again; Very willing (ſaid the Uſurer) and told him one hundred pounds out, whch Fryer Bacon took and deliuered him the pot and he went his way. This money did Fryer Bacon give to diuers poore ſchollers, and other people, and bid them pray for old Good-gatherers ſoule a healib (ſo was the Uſurer called) which theſe poore people did and would give him thankes and prayers when they met him, which he did wonder at: for he neuer deserued the prayses of any man. At laſt this old Good-gatherer went to look on his pot of gold, but in stead of gold he found nothing but earth, at which ſight he would have died, had not his other gold hindred him, which he was to leabe behind him; ſo gathering up his ſpirits, he went to Fryer Bacon and told him he was abuſed and cheated, ſo: whch he would have the Law of him, nuleſſe he made him reſtitution. Fryer Bacon told him that he had not cheated him, but been his faithfull ſteward to the poore, which he could not chuse but know, either by their prayses or their thankes; and as for the Law he feared it not, but bid him doe his worl. The old man ſeeling Fryer Bacons reſolution went his way, and ſaid, that hereafter he would be his own ſteward.

of Fryer Bacon.

How Miles, Fryer Bacon's man, did Conjure for meat, and got meat for himselfe and his Host.

Miles chanced one day upon some busynesse, to go some six miles from home, and being leath to part with some company that he had, he was belated and could get but halfe way home that night : to sake his purse he went to ones house that was his Master's acquaintance : but when he came: the good man of the house was not at home and the woman would not let him have lodgynge. Miles seeing such cold entertainment, wished that he had not troubled her, but being now there, he was loath to goe any farther, and thereforee with words he perswaded her so to give him lodgynge that night. She told him that she wold willingly do it, if her husband were at home, but he being now out of Town, it wold be to her discredit to lodge any man. You need not mistrust me (said Miles) for I have no thought to attempt your chastity: lock me in any place where there is a bed and I will not trouble you till to morrow that I rise. She thinking her husband would be angry if she shold deny any of his friends so small a request, forswore that he shold lye there, if that he shold be locked up: Miles was contented and presently went to bed, and she locked him into the Chamber where he lay.

Long had not he been a bed, but he heard the doore open, with that he rose, and peeped through a winke of the partition, and saw an old man come in: This man set down his basket that he had on hisarme, and gabe the Woman of the house three or four sweet kisses, which made Miles his mouth tunne with water to see it: Then did he undoe his basket, and pulled out of it a fat Capon ready rosted and bready; with a bottle of good old Sherr, this gabe he unto her, saying: Sweet-hearte, bearing thy husband was out of Town, I thought good to visite thee, I am not come empty handed, but have brought

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Come hing to be merry withall : lay the cloath sweet by-
ny, and let us first to Banquet, and then to bed. She kindly thanked him, and presently did as he bad her : they were not scarce set at the Table, but her husband returning backe knockt at the doore. The woman hearing this was amazed, and knew not what to doe with her old Lober : but looking on her appron-strings, she straight sound (as women use to doe) a tricke to put herselfe free from this feare : soz she put her lober under the bed, the Capon and Bread she put under a Tub, the Bottle of wine she put behinde the Chest, and then she did open the dooz, and with a dissembling kisse welcomed her husband home, asking him the reason why that he returned so quickly. He told her that he had forgot the money that he shold have carried with him, but on the morrow besimes he would be gone. Miles saw and heard all this, and having a desire to tast of the Capon and the Wine, called to the good man. He asked his wife who that was ? She told him, an acquaintance of his, that entreated lodging there that night. He bid her open the dooz, which she did, and let Miles out. He seeing Miles there, bid him welcome, and had his wife set them some meat on the Table : she told him that there was not any ready, but prayed him to keep his stomach till to morrow, and then she would provide them a good breakfast. Since it is so Miles (said the good man) we must rest content, and sleep out our hunger, Nay Nay, said Miles, if that you can eat, I can finde you good meates : I am a Scholler and habe some Art. I would fain see it (said the Good man) You shall, quoth Miles, and that presently : with that Miles pulled forzha Book out of his bosom, and began his Consuration in this fashion.

From the fearfull Lake below,
From whence Spirits come and goe;
Straightway come one and attend
Fryer Bacons man and friend.

of Fryer Bacon;

Comes there none yet, quoth Miles? Then I must use
some other Charme.

Now the Owle is flown abroad,
For I hear the croaking Toad ;
And the Bat that shunnes the day,
Through the darke doth make her way.
Now the ghost of men do rise,
And with fearfull hideous cryes,
Seek revengement (from the good)
On their heads that spilt that blood :
Come some Spirit quick I say,
Night's the Devils Holy-day :
Where ere you be in dens or lake,
In the Ivie, Ewe, or Brake :
Quickly come and me attend,
That am *Bacons* man and friend.
But I will have you take no shape
Of a Bear, a Horse, or Ape :
Nor will I have you terrible,
And th refore come invisible.

Now he is come (quoth Miles) and therefore tell me
what meat you will habe mine boast: any thing, Miles
(said the good man) what thou wilt. Why then (said
Miles) what say you to a Capon? I lobe it aboce all
meat (said the good man.) Why then a Capon you
shall habe, and that a good one too. Bemo my Spirit that
I habe raised to doe me service, I charge thee, seek and
search about the earth, and bring me hither straight the
best of Capons ready roasted. Then stood he still a lit-
tle, as though hee had attended the Comming of his
Spirit, and on the suddain said: It is well done Be-
mo, he hath brought me (mine boast) a fat Capon from
the King of Tripolis owne Table, and bread with it. I
but whereis it, Miles? (said the boast) I see neither Spi-
rit nor Capon. Look under the Lub (quoth Miles) and there

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there you shall find it. He presently did and brought (to his wifes grael) the Capon and Bread out. Stay (quoth Miles) we doe yet want some drinke that is comfortable and good : I thinke (mine Hoast) a Bottle of Maledge Sack were not amisse. I will have it ; Bemo, hast thee to Mallingo, and fetch me from the Governoz, a Bottle of his best Sacks.

The poor woman thought that he would have betrayed her and her lober, and therefore wished that he had been hanged when that he came first into her house. He having stood a little while, as before said : well done Bemo, looke behind the great Chest(mine Hoast) He did so, and brought cut the Bottle of Sack; Now (quoth he) Miles sit down and welcome, to thine owne cheer : You may see wife (quoth he) what a man of Art can doe, get a fat Capon and a bottle of good Wine in a quarter of an hour, and for nothing which is best of all : Come (good wife) sit down and be merry : for all this is paid for, I thank Miles.

She sate and could not eat a bit for anger, but wished that every bit they did eat might choake them : Her old Lober too that lay under the bed all this while, was ready to bepishe himselfe for fear, for he still looked when that Miles would discouer him.

When they had eaten and drunke well, the good man desired Miles that he would let him see the Spirit that fethered them this good cheer : Miles seemed unwilling, telling him that it was against the Lawes of Art, to let an illiterate man see a Spirit, but yet for once he would let him see it : and told him withall ; he must open the Doore and soundly beat the Spirit, or else he should be troubled hereafter with it. And because he shold not fear it, he would put it into the shape of some one of his neighbours.

The Good-man told him, that he need not to doubt his valour, he would beat him soundly, and to that purpose he took a good Cudgell in his hand, and did stand

of Fryer Bacon;

stand ready for him. Miles then went to the bed side, under which the old man lay, and began to Conjure him with these words.

Bemo quickly come appear,
Like an old man that dwels near ;
Quickly rise, and in his shape,
From this house make thy escape;
Quickly rise, or else I swear,
Ile put thee in a worser fear.

The old man seeing no remedy, but that he must needs come forth, put a good face on it, and rose from under the Bed : Behold my Spirit (quoth Miles) that b^rought me all that you habe had. Now be as good as your word and swaddle him soundly. I protest (said the Goodman) your D^ressell is as like Goodman Scumpe the Cloth-drafter, as a Rose-water is like an Apple. Is it possible that your Spirit can take other mens shapēs ? Ile teach this to keep his owne shapē : With that, he did beat the old man soundly, so that Miles was fain to take him off, and put the old man out of Dooe ; so after some laughing, to bed they all went : but the woman could not sleep for grief, that her old Lover had had such hard usage for her sake.

How Fryer Bacon did help a young man to his Sweet-heart, which Fryer Bugney would have married to another ; and of the mirth that was at the wedding.

A ² Oxfordshire Gentleman had long time lobed a faire Mayde, called Millisant ; this love of his was as kindly received of her, as it was freely given of

him, so that there wanted nothing to the finishing of their loves, but the consent of her Father, who would not grant that she should be his wife (though formerly he had been a means to further the match) by reason there was a Knight that was a suitor to her, and did desire that he might have her to his wife: But this Knight could never get from her the least token of good will: So surely was her love fixed upon the Gentleman.

This Knight seeing himselfe thus despised, went to Fryer Bunney, and told him his mind, and did promise him a good peice of Money, if he could get her for him, either by Art or Counsell.

Bunney (being coveteus) told him, that there was no better way in his mind, then to get her with her Father to goe take the ayre in a Coach; and if he could do so, he would by his Art so direct the Horses, that they shold come to an old Chappell, where he wold attend, and there they might secretly be married.

The Knight rewarded him for his counsel, and told him, that if it tooke effect, hee wold bee moze bountifull unto him: And presently went to her Father, and told him of this. He liked well of it, and forced the poore Mayde to ride with them. So soon as they were in the Coach, the horses runne presently to the Chappell, where they found Fryer Bunney attending for them: At the sight of the Church and the Priest, the poore Mayde knew that shes was betrayed, so that for griefe she fell in a swoond, to see which, her Father and the Knight were very much grieved, and used their skill for her recovery.

In this time, her best Beloved the Gentleman, did come to her Fathers to visit her, but finding her not there, and hearing that she wold go with her Father and the Knight, he mistrusted some foul play; and in all hast went to Fryer Bacon, and desired of him some help to recover his Love again whom he feared was utterly lost.

Fryer

of Fryer Bacon;

Fryer Bacon (knobring him for a vertuous Gentleman) pitied him: and to giue his griesome release, helved him a Glasse, wherein any one might see any thing done (within fifty miles space) that they desired: So soon as he looked in the Glasse, hee saw his Lowe Millisant with her Father, and the Knight, ready to be marryed by Fryer Bungey: At the sight of this hee cryed out that he was undone, for nowe shold he lose his life in lossing of his Lowe. Fryer Bacon bids him take comfort for he would preuent the Marryage: So taking this Gentleman in his Armes, he let himselfe downe in the enchanted Chappel, and suddenly they were carred through the ayre to the Chappell. Just as they came in, Fryer Bungey was joyning their hands to marry them: But Fryer Bacon spoyleth his speeche, for he strucks him dumbe, so that he could not speake a word.

Then raised he such a great myght in the Chappell, so that neyther the Father could see his Daughter, nor the Daughter her Father, nor the Knight either of them. Then took he Millisant by the hand, and led her to the man she most desired: They both wept for joy, that they so happily once moze had met; and kindly thanked Fryer Bacon.

It greatly pleased Fryer Bacon to see the passion of these two Lovers, and seeing them both contented, hee marryed them at the Chappell doore whilist her Father, the Knight, and Fryer Bungey went groping within, and could not find the way out. Now when he had marryed them, he bid them get lodgideg at the next Village, and he would send his man with money: (for the Gentleman was not stozed, and he had a great way to his house) they did as he bad them.

That night he sent his man Miles with money to them; but he kept her Father, the Knight, and Fryer Bungey till the next day at noon in the Chappell, ere he released them.

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The Gentleman and his new married wife made that night a great Supper for joy of their Marriage, and bid to it much of the Village: They wanted nothing but musick, for which they made great moan. This want Fyer Bacon (though he was absent) supplied: for after Supper there came such a Maske, that the like was never seen in that Village: For first, there was heard most sweet still musick, then wild musick, then came three Apes, and three Monkeyes, each of them carrying a Lorb. After them followed six Apes and Monkeyes more, all dressed in Anticke Coats: these last six fell a dancing in such an odde manner, that they madded all the beholders to much laughter: so after divers Antick changes, they did reverence to the Bridegroome and Bride, and so departed in order as they came in.

They all did maruell from whence these should come: But the Bridegroom knew that it was Fyer Bacons Art that gave them this grace to their wedding.

When all this was done; to Bed they went, and enjoyed their wishes. The next day he went home to his owne house with his Bride; and for the cost he had bestowed on them most part of the Towne-folke brought them on their way.

Miles made one amongst them too; he for his Misters sake was so pleyd with Cups, that he in three daies was scarce sober: For his welcome, at his departure he gabe them this Song:

To the tune of,

I have been a Fidler, &c.

And did you not hear of a mirth that befell,
The morrow after a wedding day,
At carrying a Bride at home to dwell,
and away to Twizer, away, away.

The

of Fryer Bacon,

The Quintin was set, and the Garlands were made,
'tis pity old customes should ever decay :
And woe be to him that was horst on a Jade,
for he carryed no credit away, away.

We met a Consort of Fiddle dedees,
we set them a cockhorse, and made them to play,
The winning of Bullen, and Upsyfrees,
and away to Twiver, away, away.

There was ne'er a Lad in all the parish,
that would go to Plow that day :
But on his four horse his Wench he carries,
and away to Twiver, away, away.

The Butler was quicke, and the Ale he did tap,
the Maydens did make the Chamber full gay :
The Serving men gave me a fudling Cap,
and I did carry it away, away.

The Smith of the Towne his liquor so took,
that he was perswaded the ground look'd blue,
And I dare boldly swear on a Book,
such Smithes as he there be but a few.

A Posset was made, and the women did sips,
and simpering said they could eate no more :
Full many a Maid was laid on the lip,
He say no more, but so give ore.

They kindly thanked Miles for his Song, and so sent
him home with a Fore at his tale. His Master asked
him, where bee had been so long ; he told him, at
the wedding. I know it (said Fryer Bacon) that
thou hast been there, and I know also (thou beast) that
thou hast been every day drunke. That is the worst that

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you can say by me, Master, for still poore men must be
dround, if that they take a Cup more than ordinary, but it
is not so with the rich. Whp, how is it with the rich then?
I will tell you (said Miles) in few words.

Lawyers they are sick,
And Fryers are ill at ease,
But poor men they are drunck
And all is one disease.

Well Sirrah (said Fryer Bacon) let me not heare
that you are infected any more with this disease, lest I
give you some saluce to your throat meat. Thus did
Fryer Bacon help these two Lobers, who in short time
got the lobe of the old man , and libed in great joy :
Fryer Bungey his tongue was againe let loose, and all
were friends.

How Vandermast and Fryer Bungey met, and how they
strived who should excell one another in their Con-
jurations, and of their deaths.

Vandermast thinking that Fryer Bacon had beeene
dead , come into England , and in Kent met with
Fryer Bungey ; He owing him no good will for Fryer
Bacons sake, took his Horse out of the Stable, and in
stead of it left a Spirit like unto it. Fryer Bungey in
the morning rose, and mounting this Spirit (whichee
thought he had been his Horse) rode on his journey : But
he riding thorow a Water, was left in the middest of it
by this Spirit, and being thus wet, hee returned to his
Inne.

At the Inne Dooze Vandermast met him , and as-
ked

of Fryer Bacon.

ked him, if that were swimming time of the yeaer? Bungey told him, If that he had been so well horsed as hee was, when Fryer Bacon sent him into Germany he might have escaped that washing. At this Vandermaст bit his lip, and said no more, but went in. Bungey thought that he would be even with him, which was in this manner. Vandermaст loved a Wench well, which was in the house, and sought many times to win her with gold, lobe or promises. Bungey knowing this, did shpe a Spirit like the Wench, whch he sent to Vandermaст.

Vandermaст appointed the Spirit (thinking it had been the Wench) to come to his Chamber that night, and was very joyfull that he should enjoy her now at the last: But this joy turned into sorrow, and his wanton hopes into a bad nights lodging: For Fryer Bungey had by his Art spread such a Sheet on his Bed, that no sooner was he laid with the Spirit on it, but it was carryd throughe the ayre, and let fall into a deep Pond, where Vandermaст had been drowned, if he had not had the Art of swimming: He got quickly out of the Pond, and shaked himselfe like a rough Water Spaniell: But being out, hee was as much bered as before, for he could not tell the way home, but was glad to keep himselfe in heate with walking.

Next day when he came to his Inne, Fryer Bungey asked him how hee did like his Wench? Hee said, So well, that he wished him such another. Bungey told him that his Order did forbide him the use of any; and therefore he migh keep them for his friends: Thus did they continually vex each other, both in words, and ill actions. Vandermaст desiring to doe Fryer Bungey a mischiefe, did challenge him the field) not to fight at Sword and Dagger, single Rapiet, or case of Poniards, but at worser weapons far, it was that Diabolicall Art of Magiche) here to shew which of them was most cur-

The famous History

ring or had most power over the Devil: Bungey accepted of his challenge, and both prohibited themselves of things belonging to the Art, and to the field they went.

There they both spread their Circles some hundred foote from one another: and after som other Ceremonies did Vandermast begin: He by his Charnes did raise up a very Dragon, which did runne about Fryer Bungies Circle, and did scorch him with his heate, so that he was almost ready to melt. Fryer Bungey tormentted Vandermast, In another Element: so he raised up the Sea monster that Perseus killed when he did redeeme the faire Andromeda. This Sea monster did run about Vandermast, and such flouds of water he did send out of his wide mouth, that Vandermast was almost drowned. Then did Fryer Bungey raise a Spirit up like Saint George, who fought with the Dragon, and killed it: Vandermast (folloeting his example) raised up Perseus, who fought also with the Sea monster, and killed it: So were they both released from their danger.

They being not contented with this trall of their skill, went further in there Conjurations and raised up two Spirits, each of them one. Bungey charged his Spirit so to assist him with his greatest power he had, that by it he might be able to overcome Vandermast. The Devil told him he would, if that he from his left Arme would give him but three dropts of bloud: But if that he did deny him that, then shold Vandermast have power over him to doe what he would: the like told Vandermasts Devil to him: To this demand of the spirits, they both agreed, thinking so to overcome each other; but the Devil overthrew them both.

They having given the Devil this bloud, as is before spoken of, they both fell againe to their Conjurations: first, Bungey did raise Achilles with his Greekes, who marched about Vandermast, and threatned him. Then

Vandermast

Vandermaſt raised Hector with his Trojans, who defended him from Achilles and the Greeks. Then began there a great battle between the Greeks and Trojans, which continued a good space. At last Hector was slain, and the Trojans fled. Then did follow a great tempest, with thundring and lightening, so that the two Conjurers wished that they had been away. But wishes were in vaine, for now the time was come that the Devil would bee paid for the knowledge that hee had lent them, he would tarry no longer, but then tooke them in the height of their wickednesse, and bereft them of their liues.

When the Tempest was ended, (which did greatly affright the Townes thereby) the towne-men found the bodies of these two men (Vaudermast and Bungey) breathleſſe, and strangely burnt with fire. The one had Christian buriall because of his Order sake: the other, because he was a stranger. Thus was the end of these two famous Conjurers.

How Miles would conjure for Money, and how he broke his legge for fear.

Miles one day finding his Masters Studie open, stole out of it one of his conſuring Books; with this book would Miles needs Conjure for some money: for he ſaw that his Master had money enough, and he desired the like, which did make him bold to trouble one of his masters Devils.) In a priuate place he thought it best to doe it: Wherefore he went up to the top of the house, and there began to read: Long had he not read, but a Devil came to him in an ugly ſhape and asked him what he would have? Miles being affrighted, could not ſpeak, but stood quaking there like an Aspin-leaf: the Devil, ſeeing him ſo, (to increaſe his feare) raiſed a tem-

pest, and hurled fire about, which made Miles leap from off the Leads, and with the fall broke his legge.

Fryer Bacon hearing this noyse, ran forth, and found bis man Miles on the ground, and the Devil burning fire on the house top. First laid he the Devil again, then went he of his man, and asked him how he got this broken leg? He told him that his Devil did it: for he had frightened him, and made him leap off from the house top. What didst thou there? (said his Master.) I went to conjure, Sir, (said Miles) for money, but I have gotten nothing but a broken leg; and I now must beg for money to cure that, if you be not the more pitiful to me.

I have oftentimes given you warning not to meddle with my Books (said his Master) and yet you will still be doing: Take heed, you had best, how you deal with the Devil again, for he that had power to break your leg, will break your neck, if you again do meddle with him: for this I do forgive you, for your leg breaking hath paid for your swinciente, and though I gave you not a broken head, I will give you a plaster, and so sent him to the Chirurgeons.

How two young Gentlemen that came to Fryer Bacon to know how there Fathers did, killed one another, and how Fryer Bacon for grief did break his rare Glasse, wherein he could see any thing that was done within fifty miles about him.

It is spoken of before now, that Fryer Bacon had a Glasse, which was of that excellent nature, that any man might behold any thing that he desired to see, within the compasse of fifty miles round about him: with this glasse he had pleasured divers bindes of people; for Fathers did oftentimes desire to see (thereby) how their Children did, and Children how their Parents

of Fryer Bacon.

rents did, one friend how another did, and one Enem^y (sometimes) how his Enemies did; so that from farre they would come to see this wonderfull Glasse.

It happened one day that there came to him two young Gentlemen, (that were Countrymen, and Neighbours Children) for to know of him by his Glasse, how their Fathers did: he being no niggard of his cunning, let them see his glasse, wherein they straight beheld their wifes, which they (through their owne follies) bought at their liues losse as you shall hear.

The fathers of these two Gentlemen, (in their sons absence) were become great foes; this hatred between them was grown to that height, that wheresoeuer they meet, they had not only words but blowes.

Just at that time, as it should seem, that there sons were looking to see how they were in health, they were met and had drabon, and were together by the eares.

Their Sonnes seeing this, (and having been alwayes great friends) knew not what to say to one another, but beheld each other with angry looks: At last one of their Fathers as they might perceive in the Glasse, had a fall, and the other taking advantage, stood over him ready to strike him. The sonne of him that was downe, could then contain himself no longer, but told the other young man, that his Father had received wrong. He answered again, that it was farr. At last there grew such foul words between them, and shere bloods were so heated, that they presently stab'd one another with their daggers, and so fell downe dead:

Fryer Bacon seeing them fall ranne to them, but it was too late; for they were breathlesse ere he came. This made him to grieve exceedingly; he judging that they had received the cause of their deaths by this his Glasse, took the Glasse in his hand, and uttered words to this effect.

Wretched Bacon, wretched in thy knowledge, in thy understanding wretched, for thy Art hath been the ruine

The famous History

of these two Gentlemen. Had I deen bussed in those dayes
things, the whiche mine Order tyes me to. I had not had
that time that made this wicked Glasse: Wicked I well
may call it, that is the cauler of so vible an Act; would it
were sensible, then shold it feel my wrath, but being as
it is, Ile ruine it for tuning of them: and with that he
broke his rare and wonderfull Glasse, whose like the whole
world had not. In this grief of his, there came newes to
him of the Deaths of Vandermast and Feyer Bungey.
This did increase his griefe, and made him so sorrowfull,
that in thre dayes he shold not eate any thing, but kept his
Chamber.

How Fryer Bacon burnt his books of Magick, and gave
himselfe to the study of Divinity only, and how he
turned Anchorite.

For the time that Feyer Bacon kept his Chamber, he
fell into divers meditations: Sometimes into the va-
nity of Arts and Sciences: then would he condemn him-
selfe for studynge of those things that were so contrary to
his Order, and soules health, and would say, that magick
made a man a Debill; sometimes would he meditate on
Divinity, then would he cry out upon himselfe for negle-
cting the study of it, and for studynge Magick sometimes
would he meditate on the shortnesse of mans life, then
would he condemn himselfe for spending a time so short, so
ill as he had done his: So would he goe from one thing to
another, and in all condemn his former studies.

And that the world shold know how truely he did re-
pent his wicked life: he caused a great fire to be made,
and sending for many of his Friends, Scholars, and
others, he spake to them after this manner: My good
Friends and fellow Students, it is not unknown unto
you, how that through my Act I have attained to that cre-

of Fryer Bacon.

dit, that few men living euer had: Of the wonders that I have done all England can speake, both King and Commons: I have unlocked the secrets of Art of Nature, and let the world see those things, that have lain hid since the death of Hermes, that rare and profound Philosopher: my studys have found the secrets of the Stars, the Books that I have made of them doe serue for Presidents to our greatest Doctors, so excellent hath my Judgment been therein.

I likewise have found out the secrets of Trees, Plants, and Stones, with their severall uses; yet all this knowledgē of mine I esteem so lightly, that I wish that I were ignorant, and knew nothing; for the knowledge of these things (as I have truly found) serveth not to better a man in goodnesse, but only to make him proud, and think too well of himself. What hath all my knowledge of Natures secrets gained me? Only this, the losse of a better knowledge; the losse of divine Studies, which makes the immortall part of man (his soul) blessed.

I have found, that my knowledge bath been a heavy burthen, and bath kept downe my good thoughts; but I will remoue the cause, which are these Books; whitch I do purpose here before you all to burn. They all intreated him to spare the books, because in them there were those things that after ages might receive great benefit by. He would not hearken unto them, but threw them all into the fire, and in that flame burnt the greatest learning in the world.

Then did he dispose of all his goods, some part he gave to poore Scholars, and some he gave to other poore folkes nothing left he for himselfe. Then caused he to be made in the Church wall a cell; where he locked himself in, and there remained to his death. His time he spent in Prayer, Meditation, and such Divine exercises, and did seek by all means to perswade men from the studie of Magicks.

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Thus liued he som two years space in that Cell, neuer comynge forth; his meat and drind he creibed in at a window, and at that window he did discouer with those that came to him, his grabe he digged with his aleyn hales, and was laid ther whan he dyed. Thus was the Life and Death of this famous Frer, who liued most part of his life a Magician, and dyed a tyme penitent Pinner, and an Anchore.

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